

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-I

DATE: 11 October 2005

TIME: 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee I: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq, (Vice Chair), Edward F. Almon, Joseph V. Centofanti, MD, Robert S.L. Kinder, MD, Richard Lepine, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair)

Not Present: John W. Flynn, John Keimig, Robert Ricci, Robert Whiteside, John Young

Excused Absence: Robert L. Bernstein

Other Members: Present: Sen. Catherine Graziano, Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq., Donald C. Williams, Jacqueline Steiner (Intern)

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by six in favor and none opposed (6-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Almon, Centofanti, Kinder, Lepine, Quigley.

2. General Order of Business

The first item on the agenda was the application of Women & Infants Hospital of Rhode Island for a Certificate of Need to construct a five-story addition and increase the number of NICU bassinets and licensed bed capacity for obstetric services. Staff summarized the application and noted that the hospital is requesting to increase its licensed bed capacity by 30 beds for a new total of 167 beds.

Ms. Gail Costa introduced representatives of the applicant to the

Committee and discussed responses to Committee's questions. She addressed the reasons for the letter of credit being used and stated that this model of financing has been used by the applicant for other projects. The Chairman requested that the applicant provide the official letter of credit document.

Ms. Gail Costa verbally confirmed that the proposed capital expenditures represent a true and reasonable cost estimate. The Committee requested that the applicant provide confirmation letters to that effect from its consultants and the independent cost estimate report. Staff requested that the applicant identify costs associated with constructing the shell space and its potential future uses.

Ms. Costa stated that during the most recent JACHO survey Women & Infants Hospital was cited for 3 RFIs. JACHO did not cite the hospital for inadequate conditions of its NICU units as it had previously done because it accepted the proposal pending before the Committee as addressing its concerns.

A Committee member requested that the applicant identify the number of patients being treated from the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Mr. Ross requested that the applicant conform the length of the debt to the length of the depreciation for the proposal. The applicant stated that they would address that issue.

Staff noted that members of the Committee were handed three advisory letters from Jay Buechner, Chief of Center of Health Data and Analysis, John Young, Associate Director of the Department of Human Services and Christopher Koller, Health Insurance Commissioner. Staff noted that the applicant will be expected to provide responses to all the issues raised in the letters for the next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova